

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An identifying apparatus to identify objects typically livestock ~~or humans~~ having electronic identification devices (EID), typically ~~transponders~~, the identifying apparatus including:

multiple EID reading means, ~~typically antennas~~, positioned in a spaced apart relationship defining multiple pathways through which ~~EID's carried by the objects, to be read,~~ can pass in a single file ~~through anyone of the pathways~~ and wherein each EID reading means is adapted to read any EID passing as the objects pass individually through any one ~~anyone~~ of the multiple pathways; and

computing means adapted to record each EID ~~carried by an object~~ only once irrespective of the number of times an EID is read by any one of the multiple EID reading means ~~reads an EID or irrespective of the direction or how many times the object passes the multiple pathways.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the EIDs ~~EID's~~ are rumen pellets, or ear tag transponders, electronic identification cards, neck tags, or bracelets. ~~when the objects are livestock.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~when the objects are humans~~ the EID's reading means are used in conjunction with one or more known biometric systems, ~~typically face recognition systems or optical (eye/iris) recognition systems, or video or digital imaging systems.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multiple pathways are ~~multiple races that are~~ adapted to enable reading of

all EID's EIDs irrespective of the physical size of each object.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the EID reading means is adapted to read the EID carried by the object irrespective of the speed of the object through the multiple pathways.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the multiple~~ each EID reading means is in modular form and may come in modules to enable each EID reading means module to be releasably inter-connected to another EID reading means module modules so that any a multiple number of EID reading means modules can be interconnected together to define ~~form~~ the multiple pathways.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the multiple pathways can be adjusted, ~~so as to allow the identification apparatus to identify different types of objects, for example where the objects are livestock the width of the pathways can be adjusted from allowing cattle to pass individually through to allowing sheep to pass individually through.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the multiple EID reading means are equally spaced apart from one another.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each EID reading means is adapted to read EIDs ~~EID's~~ at differing heights, ~~such as EID's carried by smaller objects, e.g. calves as opposed to those carried by larger objects e.g. fully grown cattle.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~To An~~ The identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

~~further including an wherein when the EID reading means are in a spaced apart relationship include angled divider means adapted to provide each pathway with a narrowing width wherein the width of each pathway at a lower region is less than the width in an upper region, so as to enable objects of differing heights and girth to pass individually through the pathways.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each EID reading means is synchronized by one or more control modules to enable each EID reading means to read a number of EIDs EID's simultaneously and to transmit the data read to the computing means, ~~which processes the data to record each EID carried by an object only once.~~

13. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a visual and/or an audible alarm system ~~such as a light and/or a buzzer or bell, respectively~~ which is actuated when an object passes the EID reading means without activating the EID reading means.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying apparatus is associated with a marking means adapted to mark objects which do not activate the EID reading means as they pass through the pathways, ~~typically the marking means used herein is that disclosed in PCT/AU02/00858.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying apparatus is associated with partitioned holding pens having drafting gates wherein livestock exiting a pathway can be directed through the ~~[[a]]~~ drafting gates to a selected holding pens, depending upon activation or not of ~~for~~

~~example livestock that do not activate the EID reading means as they pass through the pathways can be drafted into a separate holding pen to that of the livestock that do activate the EID reading means.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying apparatus is adapted to count the objects as they pass through the pathways.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying apparatus is adapted to count the objects which do not activate the EID reading means as they pass through the pathways.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identifying apparatus includes motion sensing means adapted to activate the identifying apparatus when a moving object is sensed by the motion sensing means, preferably as or just before the objects enter any_one of the pathways.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the motion sensing means is photoelectric sensing means wherein a beam of light between a photo emitter and a photo sensor device is interrupted by the passage of an object.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ identifying apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the motion sensing means is infrared (IR) sensing means or microwave sensing means where infrared and microwave beams, respectively, are interrupted by the passage of an object.

25. – 29 (Cancelled)